

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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WSP Wins the Silver Medal in National Honor Guard Competition

The Washington State Patrol Honor Guard took 2nd place at the National Police Honor Guard Competition during the 2008 National Police Memorial Week in Washington D.C. The honor guard was in D.C. from May 11 to 16, and while there, the team participated in the honor guard competition and the National Police Week Memorial Ceremony.

"First was Washington State Patrol being nationally recognized as the best state police agency of its size in 2006, and then it was awarded the Best Dressed State Law Enforcement Agency for 2007. Now the Washington State Patrol Honor Guard has the honor of placing 2nd at the National Police Week Honor Guard Competition in Washington D.C.," said Washington State Patrol Chief John R. Batiste. "The citizens of Washington State should be proud that their State Patrol Honor Guard was able to do so well at this national competition."

The competition consisted of three phases; uniform inspections, color posting ceremony and exhibition. During the uniform inspection phase, soldiers from the U.S. Army's Old Guard, who are responsible for guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, inspected the teams. The second phase of the competition was focused on which team best followed flag protocol during a colors posting ceremony. Lastly, the teams were given eight minutes to demonstrate their drill and ceremony skills, and precision teamwork.

The WSP Honor Guard competed against 22 teams representing police agencies from across the U.S. and Canada. The Washington State Patrol Honor Guard was the only state law enforcement agency to earn a medal. The U.S. Border Patrol took the gold medal and the Washington D.C. Capitol Police took the bronze (3rd place).

The Honor Guard consisted of eight Troopers who volunteered many hours outside their normal police duties to practice and rehearse for this competition. The WSP Memorial Foundation, WSP Troopers Association and the Washington State Patrol sponsored the Honor Guard's trip to D.C.

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